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**FORMER MOBIL EXECUTIVE PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION
ON \$2 MILLION KICKBACK FROM KAZAKHSTAN OIL TRANSACTION**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that J. BRYAN WILLIAMS, a former Senior Executive of Mobil Oil Corporation, pled guilty today before United States District Judge HAROLD BAER, JR. to a two count felony Information charging WILLIAMS with evading taxes on more than \$7 million in unreported income, including a \$2 million kickback he received in connection with Mobil's oil business in Kazakhstan.

According to Williams' plea allocution, statements made by the Government during the plea hearing and the Information, between 1993 and 2000, WILLIAMS maintained a secret bank account in Switzerland in the name of Alqi Holdings, Ltd. Between 1993 and 2000, Williams caused more than \$7 million in income he received to be deposited into the Alqi accounts, in order to avoid reporting that income to the IRS. Williams also failed to

report nearly \$1 million in interest income earned on the funds deposited into the Alqi account.

The unreported income included millions of dollars in kickbacks from Governments, persons and other entities with whom WILLIAMS did business while a Mobil employee. According to the Information, one of the payments on which WILLIAMS evaded taxation was a \$2 million payment he received in 1996 as a kickback related to his work for Mobil in Kazakhstan. The Information alleges that in April 1996 WILLIAMS was sent by Mobil's Chairman to finalize the negotiations with Kazakhstan regarding Mobil's purchase for approximately \$1 billion of a 25% interest in the Tengiz oil field.

According to the Information, after the Tengiz deal closed, on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mobil paid \$41 million to a New York merchant bank that represented the Republic of Kazakhstan in the transaction. According to the Information, the merchant bank's President kicked back \$2 million of that payment to WILLIAMS, by transferring money through a secret Swiss bank account he controlled into the Alqi account WILLIAMS controlled.

WILLIAMS, 63, resides in McLean, Virginia.

WILLIAMS faces a maximum of 5 years' imprisonment on each of the two counts to which he pled. WILLIAMS also faces a fine, on each count, of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense, plus (on the tax evasion count) the costs of prosecution.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service in conducting this investigation, which began in 2000, and thanked the Swiss authorities for their outstanding cooperation in this case.

Mr. COMEY said the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney PETER G. NEIMAN and Special Counsel for International Litigation PHILIP UROFSKY of the Department of Justice's Fraud Section are in charge of the prosecution.

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